FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Rep. John Nygren

June 19, 2015 (888) 534-0089

Nygren's HOPE Agenda Increases Addiction Resources in Rural Areas

Madison – State Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) released the following statement regarding a new option treatment grant for people struggling with heroin and opiate addiction in rural areas:

"This morning I had the opportunity to speak at the North Central Region Opioid Consortium in Minocqua. I talked about the package of legislation I authored last session called the Heroin, Opiate, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Agenda, which is geared toward combating Wisconsin's heroin epidemic.

"I'm happy to see that my efforts are already having a positive impact in rural areas of our state. Now, the Department of Health Services will be providing nearly \$700,000 a year over the next five years for an option treatment grant. This grant will help people who live in rural areas and are struggling with heroin or opiate addiction by increasing their accessibility to treatment."

The grant is being awarded to the Family Health Center of Marshfield on behalf of the North Central Region Opioid Consortium for a comprehensive program to provide services to individuals addicted to opioid drugs.

"Moving forward, I plan to build upon my HOPE Agenda to further our efforts to combat the negative impact of addiction in Wisconsin. I understand that these laws are not a silver bullet; however, they are a step in the right direction. Heroin and opiate addiction continues to be a significant problem in our state, and I will continue to help spread awareness at events like today's consortium."

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